

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Monday - 24 January 1955

- * -

1. Mr. Saunders has expressed his concern to Mr. Houston and myself regarding H. R. 34, a bill to establish a Joint Committee on the Budget. This Committee will be composed of 16 members from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The Joint Committee shall inform itself on all matters relating to the budget, advising the Appropriations Committees of the Congress on pertinent matters, including revisions in appropriations in the light of budget estimates on the necessity for minimum expenditures. It shall also call to the attention of standing committees of the Congress any need for changes in legislation and deviations from basic agency legislative authorizations. The Committee shall have the powers relating to hearings and subpoena, together with a staff, and the staff shall have the right to examine the fiscal books and documents of any agency of the Government, together with data relating to proposed appropriations. Similar legislation has been introduced in succeeding sessions of the Congress for several years, and last year a similar bill passed the Senate but died in the House.